

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10

CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07

NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /109 W

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R 201343Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6999

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTREAL 1896

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO

SUBJECT: ICAO: ELECTION OF NEW SECRETARY GENERAL

REF: ICAO C/WP 6261

1. FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE CALLED ON USREP THIS DATE FOR "PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS" REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF THE FRENCH NOMINATING GILBERT GILLAUME FOR SYG.
2. FYI: GILLAUME EXTREMELY WELL KNOWN IN ICAO FOR WORK IN LEGAL MATTERS FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND AS PAST CHAIRMAN ICAO LEGAL COMMITTEE. BRILLIANT, SHREWD, LEGALISTIC AND ALTHOUGH NOT ANTI-US, HE HAS OFTEN BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN UNDOING IMPORTANT US POSITIONS. END FYI.
3. FRENCH REP SAID THAT NO DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS WERE ANTICIPATED AS YET BUT THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE EARLY REACTIONS FROM KEY STATES, AND HE WAS APPROACHING THE US FIRST. USREP RESPONDED WITH COMPLIMENTARY LANGUAGE RE GILLAUME'S BRILLIANCE BUT OFFERED THREE CAUTIONARY OBSERVATIONS.

A. AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE THERE HAS BEEN OPEN DISCUSSION  
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FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS THAT IF COUNCIL DECIDED TO PUT KOTAITE

IN AS FRENCH-SPEAKING PRESIDENT THAT SYG SHOULD NOT BE FRENCH-SPEAKING.

B. GILLAUME'S BACKGROUND IS THE LAW LIKE KOTAITE'S AND ALTHOUGH IN THE FRENCH FRAMEWORK, IS N "ADMINISTRATOR" THAT TERMINOLOGY DOES NOT IMPLY "EXECUTIVE" AS IT USUALLY DOES IN ENGLISH. USREP TOOK OCCASION TO MAKE MENTION OF ANOTHER UNDERLYING PRINCIPLE WHICH HAD BEEN OPENLY DISCUSSED OVER PAST FEW MONTHS: THAT HAVING PUT "THIRD WORLD" IN THE PRESIDENCY THE SYGSHIP SHOULD BE REPRESENTATIVE OF MAJOR AVIATION INTERESTS. FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE SEEMED AU COURANT WITH RESPECT TO THESE THREE POINTS AND MADE NO EFFORT TO "SELL" GILLAUME. USREP MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF RETIREMENT OF PRESENT DIRECTOR LEGAL BUREAU IN NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE AND SUGGESTED GILLAUME MIGHT BE BETTER PLACED IN THAT POSITION BUT LAMBERT INDICATED THAT HE IS AT TOO HIGH A LEVEL TO CONSIDER A BUREAU DIRECTORSHIP.

4. FYI: AS USREP HAS REPEATEDLY REPORTED OVER LAST FEW MONTHS WE WERE DEFINITELY ANTICIPATING A FRENCH NOMINATION FOR SYG AND CONSIDER IT TO BE VERY THREATENING TO US INTERESTS THROUGHOUT ICAO -- MUCH MORE SO THAN A DEVELOPING NATION CANDIDATE. WE SHOULD MOVE IMMEDIATELY AND FIRMLY TO COMPLETELY DISCOURAGE ANY NOTION OF FRANCE FILING THIS CANDIDATE.

5. USREP WAS IMMEDIATELY REMINDED OF THE LEBANON "PRELIMINARY APPROACH" ON BEHALF OF KOTAITE LAST JUNE WITHIN A FEW DAYS OF THE PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION. WE WERE ENCOURAGED TO EXPRESS RESERVATION/OBJECTIONS OR ANY OTHER REACTION BUT WE DID NOTHING. THE TELEGRAM WAS NOT ACKNOWLEDGED TO THE MISSION AND THE USG MADE NO RESPONSE TO THE LEBANON REQUEST. SILENCE WAS INTERPRETED AS "NO OBJECTION" AND IT LED IMMEDIATELY TO THE SURE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS WHICH MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP KOTAITE FOUR MONTHS LATER. WE ARE NOW FACED WITH EXACTLY THE SAME SITUATION AND WE MUST REPEAT MUST DISCOURAGE THIS CANDIDACY FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. THERE IS SOUND BASIS FOR DOING SO: A. GILLAUME IS AN INTERNATIONAL AIR LAW MAN LIKE KOTAITE AND THEREFORE DOES NOT SUPPLEMENT KOTAITE'S BACKGROUND. B. HE HAS NO "TECHNICAL" BACKGROUND IN AVIATION (OPERATING, MANUFACTURING, ECONOMICS, PLANNING) SOME OF WHICH MUST BE AVAILABLE IN THE EXECUTIVE SYG  
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WHO ADMINISTERS THE LARGE AIR NAV BUR, AIR TRANS BUR, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BUR, AS WELL AS THE LEGAL BUR.  
C. KOTAITE IS CONSIDERED FRENCH/ORIENTED AND FRENCH-SPEAKING AND IT HAS BEEN GENERALLY CONCEDED AMONG COUNCIL MEMBERS THAT FRENCH-SPEAKING OFFICIALS IN BOTH POSITIONS IS NOT ADVISEABLE. UNFORTUNATELY THERE IS NO FRENCH-SPEAKING BUREAU DIRECTOR AT THE MOMENT (AIR TRANS BUR HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN THE SPOT FOR FRANCE AND IS PRESENTLY VACANT).

6. REQUEST RESPONSE ASAP AND CONSIDERATION OF INFORMAL REPRESENTATIONS PARIS. OBVIOUSLY IF WE CAN DECIDE UPON AN ALTERNATIVECANDIDATE IN NEXT COUPLE WEEKS, A MORE POSITIVE APPROACH WOULD BE TO EXPRESS STRONG PREFERENCE OR COMMITMENT TO THE OTHER CANDIDATE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, SECRETARY GENERAL, NOMINATION, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MONTRE01896  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750405-0112  
**From:** MONTREAL  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751125/aaaaavqz.tel  
**Line Count:** 122  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ICAO: ELECTION OF NEW SECRETARY GENERAL  
**TAGS:** PORG, EAIR, FR, US, ICAO, (GILLAUME, GILBERT)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006